

REMARKS

This request for reconsideration is offered in response to the Office Action mailed March 31, 2003.

It is respectfully submitted that this Request for Reconsideration will not require a new search.

The Office Action rejected Claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the Kitajima reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,015,081) in view of the Mochizuki reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,825,532) and the Muchel reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,525,042).

Claim 13 recites that the common close-up optical system includes a single optical axis. Therefore, only the lenses which have common optical axes (e.g., are co-axial) comprise the common close-up optical system.

In contrast, in the Muchel reference, there is no other lens wherein the optical axis is co-axial or in common with that of the main objective lens I. Therefore, there are no other lenses that can be construed as the “common close-up optical system having a single optical axis” of presently pending Claim 13. However, the condition “ $f_A > 500$ ” is not satisfied by the main objective lens I of the Muchel reference. It is respectfully submitted that none of the other references teach or suggest such a modification to the Muchel reference.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 13 and 14 are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is believed to be in immediate

condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gerald Levy by R.E. Brown*  
Gerald Levy Reg. No. 32,200  
Registration No. 24,419

Pitney, Hardin, Kipp & Szuch LLP  
685 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10017  
(212) 297-5800